

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-8 over U.S. Patent 3,545,660 to Stephen, the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 4, and 8 over U.S. Patent 6,050,467 to Drouillard, and the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 over U.S. Patent 6,131,782 to DeSilva.

As recited, e.g., in claims 1 and 5, a stopper mechanism includes a handle operable for fixing a cross rail to roof rails. The stopper mechanism comprises a cam member having a projection portion, and a contact member, the cam member having a convex portion configured to maintain the projection portion at a stopping position.

Moreover, among other things recited, e.g., in claim 1, the roof rails compressively contact a holder movable relative to the roof rails upon movement of the contact member relative to the cam member by rotation of the projecting portion against the convex portion until reaching the stopping position when the handle is at the second position.

None of Stephen, Drouillard, or DeSilva disclose the claimed interaction of a projecting portion and a convex portion in a stopper mechanism, configured to maintain the projecting portion at a stopping position.

Accordingly, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, anticipate the claims under § 102(b), or render the claims obvious under § 103(a).

Cancellation of claims 3 and 7 renders moot the rejection of these two claims.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
James W. Edmondson
Reg. No. 33,871